

The Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE COURT

MICHAEL M. RODDY
Executive Officer and Clerk
Jury Commissioner

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PRESS RELEASE **NOTICE TO ATTORNEYS**

PROCEDURE REGULATING PHOTOGRAPHY AND ELECTRONIC RECORDING IN COURTHOUSES BY PRIVATE PERSONS

On March 20, 2006, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, County of San Diego, issued Special Order Number 032006, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of all persons involved in the judicial process by preventing the unauthorized recording and use of images or video of witnesses, jurors, court documents, etc. The Special Order specifically delineates that the use by a private individual of any device, such as a cell phone with a camera or with other recording capabilities, to record or photograph a judicial proceeding or a person involved in a judicial proceeding in the courthouse is prohibited absent prior written judicial approval. The Order applies throughout the courthouse, including the entrances and exits, the hallways, and the business offices. The Order adds that a violation may result in removal of the offending individual from the building, confiscation of the device, institution of contempt proceedings and/or sanctions. The Order also provides that it does not restrict the media's rights under rule 980 of the California Rules of Court. It is not the intent of the Order to alter the existing rights of the media in any respect, within or outside of rule 980.

To provide adequate notice to the public, copies of the Order will be posted in suitable locations throughout the courthouses and outside courtrooms as necessary. Corresponding signage will be placed at building entrances and in the business offices.


MICHAEL M. RODDY
Executive Officer

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